

REMEMBERING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT LUTHER JEFFERSON, SR.

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am honored to salute the life and service of retired CMSgt Luther Jefferson, Sr., who served as a Tuskegee Airman in the 332nd Fighter Group. Chief Jefferson will be remembered not only for his valor and service to his country but also for his compassion, optimism, and generous spirit. He died at his home in Victorville, California on January 19, 2012.

Luther Jefferson was born March 23, 1923, in Cotton Valley, LA, and was the fifth of 11 children born to Andrew and Sue Willie Curry Jefferson. Reared in poverty on a sharecropper's farm, Luther was determined to work hard, study diligently, and maintain a positive outlook on life.

In March 1943, Luther Jefferson was drafted into the U.S. military. While completing basic training at the Army Air Base in Greengrove, NC, he learned of an experimental training program for African-American pilots, based at the Tuskegee Institute and Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. After passing the required examination and being accepted into the program, he was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group's 99th Fighter Squadron—part of an elite group now known as the Tuskegee Airmen. Logging more than 5,000 hours in aircraft that included the P-40 Fighter and B-25s, he helped protect Army Air Corps bombers in Italy during WWII and participated in the post-WWII Berlin Airlift. Following the war, Jefferson was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, OH in the Research and Development Section of New Aircraft and Human Characteristics—as one of a select few chosen to test new aircraft and combat simulations. Luther Jefferson also participated in the Dugway Proving Ground atomic test in Utah. By the time he retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1972, Luther Jefferson had become one of the branch's first African-American chief master sergeants.

As a civilian, Chief Jefferson remained active in his community and volunteered as a Little League umpire and a Meals-on-Wheels driver for homebound seniors.

Luther Jefferson, Sr., passed away at 88 years of age. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his two siblings Avis Jefferson and Alice Shaw; three children, Deborah Jefferson, Yvonne Atkinson, and Andrew Jefferson; and his six grandchildren, extended family, and numerous friends.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Tuskegee Airman CMSgt Luther Jefferson, Sr.

HONORING CAPTAIN CARLTON JACOB HOLLAND, JR. USA

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I honor Captain Jake Holland, United States Army, for his service in defense of Wyoming and our Nation.

Captain Holland of Casper, WY, was an Army Ranger assigned to the 48th Army of the Republic of Vietnam, Advance Team 88, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command—Vietnam Advisors, Military Assistance Command. He was stationed in the Central Highlands of Phuoc Long Province as a MACV advisor to the South Vietnamese.

The Central Highlands were a critical supply route for the Viet Cong through the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The MACV mission was infamously known as one of the most dangerous missions for ground troops. They deployed deep into the jungle in small teams of four to train and assist the South Vietnamese Army and the indigenous Montagnard fighters.

Early in the morning on February 9, Captain Holland and his men came under attack. They were outmanned and outgunned by the Viet Cong but that did not dissuade their determination to resist the attack on Bu Dang Compound.

As the enemy advanced closer to the compound demanding surrender over loud speakers, Captain Holland established a perimeter with his remaining forces. He picked up a .50 caliber machine gun and moved from position to position, exposing himself with each burst of fire. After all of the ammunition ran out, Captain Holland and his men succumbed to their wounds but they never gave up the fight. He was 36 years old.

Forty-seven years ago today, on February 9, 1965, Wyoming suffered its first casualty of the Vietnam War. For his valiant actions on this fateful day, Captain Holland was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest honor in the Army. His decorations also included the Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Today, Captain Holland lays in rest with his brothers in arms at Arlington National Cemetery in Section 35, site 3621. His name is engraved on Panel 01E, Line 86 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In Wyoming we never forget. It is through this tradition that we make every effort to honor and remember those who have selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice. We hold Captain Holland's service and valor high.●

RECOGNIZING WEST NOTTINGHAM ACADEMY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 200th anniversary of the chartering and relocation of West Nottingham Academy in Colora, MD. West Nottingham Academy is recognized as the oldest boarding school in the nation 267 years after the school's original founding. West Nottingham Academy was founded in 1744 by Samuel Finley, a young Presbyterian minister from Ireland who later became president of Princeton. The school prepared boys for university study, and two

early graduates, Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, went on to sign the Declaration of Independence. In 1812, West Nottingham Academy was granted a Charter by the State of Maryland, and moved to its present location. Notable alumni include Maryland Governor Austin Lane Crothers, Cincinnati founder John Filson, North Carolina Governor Alexander Martin, and Pennsylvania Congressman Peter Kostmayer.

West Nottingham Academy has evolved from its humble beginnings as a log cabin addition to Samuel Finley's home to a modern campus that is home to 120 boarding and day students in grades 9–12 representing eight States and ten countries. Student life is enriched outside the classroom by interscholastic sports teams, service learning opportunities, student-led clubs, and educational excursions to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington.

West Nottingham Academy uses an innovative, student-centered academic approach which celebrates students' many learning styles through a variety of teaching methods. The student-centered approach is exemplified in West Nottingham's Chesapeake Learning Center, where students with learning differences receive support services uniquely tailored to help each student reach his or her full potential.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating West Nottingham Academy on the bicentennial of its chartering and relocation, and on over 200 years of providing educational opportunity and leadership to Maryland and our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEREMIAH MOCK

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor SFC Jeremiah Mock on the occasion of his oath of reenlistment in the Nevada Army National Guard. His commitment to the citizens of the Silver State is unwavering, and Nevada is honored by his service.

I would first like to recognize all of our Nation's service men and women. Each and every day, our troops are serving the United States to protect our freedom. They dedicate their lives to serve this great Nation and constantly make grave sacrifices to ensure the safety of our country. Our servicemembers and their families deserve our gratitude and thanks.

Before serving in the Nevada National Guard, Sergeant Mock served 9 years in the Army Reserve, where he was deployed repeatedly on combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. His continued dedication to service led him to join the Nevada National Guard in 2007, and he continues to serve his State, despite becoming the innocent victim of a brutal shooting in Carson City, NV, on September 6, 2011. I will never forget this tragic event, and I continue to send my thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families.

I commend Sergeant Mock for his bravery and thank him for his faithful